

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A low ~~Low~~ sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column comprising
a female member $[(2)]$ adapted for slidingly receiving a male member $[(4)]$ therein and at least one metal strip $[(7)]$ fitted therebetween having an uneven contact surface, characterized in that said metal strips $[(7)]$ are fitted between the male member $[(4)]$ and the female member $[(2)]$ and inside recesses $[(10)]$ in a fastening cage $[(11)]$ which, in turn, is arranged clamped to the external surface of said male member $[(4)]$.

2. (currently amended) A low ~~Low~~ sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said cage $[(11)]$ is clamped to the outside of the male member $[(4)]$ by means of ~~protrusion-like~~ deformations on the lateral surface thereof.

3. (currently amended) A low ~~Low~~ sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said cage $[(11)]$ is injected directly on the male member $[(4)]$.